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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

UNION LEAGUE,

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

DECEMBER 11th, 1865.

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

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UNION LEAGUE.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Members of the Union League, of Philadelphia, most of the great purposes for which this Association was organized have been accomplished. The Rebellion is no more. It died hard, it died justly, it died, as all good men desired that it should, by the edge of the sword. It is now, and it will ever continue to be, a profound satisfaction to this nation that peace was secured by no terms or compromises with the traitors; by no yielding of a single principle of policy or of conscience involved in the contest; by no injudicious permission to the conquered to revive the old abuses of their social system; and thus, in the midst of a mis-called peace, to plant in the land the seeds of another gigantic war. We have not more reason

to thank Providence for our triumph than for the manner in which it was achieved. The treason fell with arms in its myriad hands, red with the best blood of our kindred; it perished with our victorious bayonets at its throat; and the circumstances of its fall drew after them consequences of inestimable value, both to the victors, and, in the not distant future, to the short-sighted vanquished. It neither asked nor expected other terms than those which are meted by the conqueror to the conquered. It had been prepared so to deal with us, if chance had placed the victory within its grasp. This state of affairs continued for some time after Lee's surrender, and would have continued until the present day, had not the rebels taken heart from the treasonable sympathy expressed by their allies in the North, and with this encouragement, endeavored by all the arts of political opposition to secure to themselves, through the doctrine of State Sovereignty, and the right of equal representation in the councils of the Nation, a power which they had forfeited by their vain appeal to arms. The first fruit which the rebels and their Northern friends hoped for from these manœuvres, was a reorganization of their odious social system, and a practical restoration of the institution of slavery. Though the slaves had been freed by our armies from the dominion of their masters, these same masters now proposed to plunge the freedmen into a more degrading slavery to the law. Nothing but the vigilance and the wise determination of the Government

prevented the Southern States from lapsing into a worse barbarism than that from which they had just emerged. The experiment of discovering how far the indulgence of the Government would permit the conquered traitors to go, was tried in the State of Mississippi, and, thanks to the firmness of the President, with a signal want of success. The elections which followed in the Northern States, sweeping every State into the arms of the patriotic party, making certain the passage of the Constitutional Amendment, with or without the concurrence of the South, strengthening the spirit and the arm of the Administration, and reasserting the principles on which the late war had been conducted, once more and forever, reduced the former traitors to a condition but little less hopeless than that which immediately followed the surrenders of Lee and of Johnston. The power of the Nation is now, we may almost say, permanently fixed in the hands of the Union party. Hereafter, no man will dare to go before the Northern people for political preferment who bases his claims to favor upon his opposition to the war; his sympathy with our former enemies; his forgiving disposition towards the fugitive chiefs of the rebellion or their imprisoned President; his desire to repudiate a debt which should be our burden of glory, and to substitute for it the infamous outlay incurred by the irresponsible conspirators at Richmond; his sentimental affection for that horrible incubus of the past, which all civilized nations have execrated, and which we

now, thank God, execrate also, under the name of slavery; his defamation of our murdered President, and his detraction of our skillful soldiers; his defence of the revolting scenes in the prison pens of Belle Isle, of Salisbury, and of Andersonville, or upon any issue settled by our bayonets between the Potomac and the Rio Grande. That this position of the national mind is just, merciful, and according to Divine Providence, is our humble belief; and it should be our duty as Christians and patriots to endeavor to maintain it. Let us watch with jealous scrutiny the subtle encroachments of our political opponents, so that no retrograde measures may imperil a future over which we have won supreme influence at great cost.

To the freedmen, so suddenly liberated by the movements of our armies and the policy of our Government, we owe a duty from which we must not turn in the days of our prosperity; but rather make that prosperity a means of adjusting their uncertain position in the land of their early bondage, and of securing to them every blessing that right judgment may decide to belong to a state of absolute liberty. We must not forget the fidelity shown to the nation by this oppressed race in the darkest hours of our history, nor the desperate nature of the services rendered to us when they first arrayed themselves in arms, to meet the early contempt of their white comrades and the cold-blooded massacres of our common enemies. A double share of fortitude was necessary to

encounter these two great difficulties, and our black soldiers bore both with unfailing manhood. Mere cold justice, if not a more commendable gratitude, should make us the watchful guardians of the present condition and the future prospects of the race which God has confided to our keeping. The perplexities of our guardianship may be vast and disheartening; but we should bear them with the same courage and hopefulness that led this derided people into fields where no quarter was given to their wounded, and where the ready halter awaited their captured files. The wish of the nation, clearly expressed to our Government, has always been sufficient to shape its policy; and doubtless the voice that arose in the recent elections in the North will reach the wakeful ears of our representatives at the Capital. We trust that it may; and it should be our effort to swell the force and volume of the popular demand. Certainly the Union League which, from its organization until the present day, has been the unwavering herald and civic soldier of the grand principles which animated the late war, should not, because the open contest is over, resign itself to a fatal torpor, and permit the fruits of all our exertions to slip from our grasp, while machinations more dangerous than military strategy are being stealthily advanced, and as adroitly withdrawn, before they can meet with popular rebuke. The high uses of this association of loyal men will not pass away until the last embers of the Rebellion are trampled out, and

no spark remains with which to rekindle it; until the very passions which arrayed the two sections of our country in hostility have become matters of history, and the whole people, from ocean to ocean and from Canada to Mexico, have become one homogeneous mass of contented and sympathetic men. National unity means something more to the political philosopher than two arrays of jealous and discontented States, controlled on the one hand, or soothed on the other, by a central government, however powerful or however tolerant. To bring about a harmonious state of national affairs should be the leading aim of the League; but we are convinced that this end cannot be gained by proffering mercy to the baffled traitors almost before they ask it, or by so condoling with their abject condition as almost to exalt the causes of their sufferings into as many virtues. We must not forget the declaration of our President, that hereafter treason shall be made to appear as a capital crime in the eyes of our citizens, by the punishment which is about to overtake it at the hands of the outraged law. We should support and sustain our Chief in his wise decision, and invigorate the ideas of popular justice when they may seem to be subsiding into a leniency approaching to meanness. Having accomplished this, we shall have performed our whole duty, and shall have placed our country in a position of strength that will alike defy internal revolution and foreign hostility.

If the exertions of the Union League during the

present year have not been so great and various as in the preceding periods which are covered by former reports, it has only been because the rapidly advancing triumph of our cause, towards which all events tended, rendered such exertions unnecessary. Like the industrious husbandman, we have been able to lay aside our implements of labor, and wait for the ripening harvest in our fields. But one call has been made upon us this year, which was in the recent successful State election; and in that we were not idle, as the Chairman of the "State Central Committee" has most generously testified in his public addresses.

Compared with previous years, the issues of the Board of Publication have been light, though not unimportant in their character. Fifty-six thousand three hundred and eighty copies of various documents have been printed and circulated throughout the country; and judging from the interest excited by at least one of the publications, their dissemination has been productive of excellent results to our cause. The Board of Publication has also, as heretofore, aided in the distribution of the documents of individuals and those of many loyal publication societies. The League itself issued some reports of the proceedings of general meetings during the current year, which the Board of Publication also assisted in circulating.

Since the date of the last Annual Report, the Committee on Enlistments sent into the field three full regiments, the Two Hundred and Thirteenth, Two Hundred

and Fourteenth, and Two Hundred and Fifteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers. Thus nine effective regiments, two battalions, and a troop of cavalry were recruited by this Committee during the war, and placed at the service of the Government, as our military contribution to the national cause. The entire force amounted to over ten thousand men. Wherever these regiments had the opportunity, they did honor to the name under which they were enlisted. The sudden termination of the war put an end to the labors of your Committee, and left them little to do besides closing their accounts, and welcoming back our returning soldiers. Nothing has contributed more to the fame of our institution than the exertions of the Committee on Enlistments; and the intelligent gentlemen composing that body are entitled to our hearty thanks and cordial congratulations. A summary of the operations of the Committee will be found appended to this report.

The Library Committee is engaged in collecting and arranging books, charts, and engravings with all the speed which their funds will warrant. It is to be regretted that donations both in books and money do not flow into this Committee with the rapidity and in the quantities which was anticipated. It is the intention of the Board of Directors to make the Library of the League an ornament of interest to the Institution, and if possible a collection worthy of our city. We would, therefore, call the attention of our members to the objects of the Library

Committee, and solicit a more liberal response to its propositions for assistance.

The Committee on Fine Arts and Trophies has already added greatly to the beauty of our building by tastefully grouping and arranging the trophies of the late war which have been presented to the League, or placed in its custody for safe keeping. The Committee has also decorated the walls of our house with many fine pictures, bronzes, and other works of art, which add greatly to the attractiveness of our rooms. The Committee recommends that as many meritorious pictures of a patriotic and national character shall be collected within the League House as our members may be able to procure. Purchases of articles of so great value from the treasury of the League, are not considered practicable at present; but our members by individual subscriptions or otherwise, may, without great exertion or expense, secure to the League the possession of many works, the subjects of which entitle them to a place of honor among our patriotic memorials. Our thanks are due to General Hector Tyndale for the presentation of an excellent copy in bronze of Kiss' Amazon, and to Mrs. Joseph R. Fry for the donation of a portrait of General Fremont. Our thanks are also due to Mr. James L. Claghorn, Mr. Joseph Harrison, Jr., Mr. John Rice, Mr. Joseph T. Bailey, and Mr. Wm. H. Merrick, for the loan of many pictures of high merit from their various collections, and to the gentlemen who placed upon our walls the gallery of medallions in

bronze, representing our most distinguished statesmen and soldiers.

The thanks of the League are due to the Committee on Membership, for the care and fidelity with which they have discharged the responsible and not always pleasant duties entrusted to them. We doubt whether, considering the immense number of names submitted to this Committee, all of which required rigid scrutiny and unprejudiced decision, any similar body has discharged its functions with so much success and so little injustice to applicants as your Committee on Membership.

On the first of December, 1865, the League numbered seventeen hundred and sixty members on its roll. Of these six hundred and eighty-one were elected during the current year. We have to regret the loss of twenty-one members by death, thirteen by resignation, and nineteen have been dropped from the roll for non-payment of their annual dues. We trust that the members of the League will not relax in their efforts to recruit our ranks from among their loyal friends, and if possible to increase our numbers until they equal the capacity of our extensive establishment.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the League, the agreement between the subscribers to the Building-Fund and our Corporation, has been faithfully complied with, and the League now possesses title to this property, subject to the stipulated mortgage of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. A sinking fund has been created

for the gradual extinguishment of the liability under the mortgage, and two thousand dollars will each year be appropriated from the treasury of the League for this important purpose. Our members are now able to judge whether the erection and occupation of this building have been judicious steps. The increased conveniences of our establishment cannot be doubted, nor the general good taste which its details exhibit. Our thanks should be returned to the public-spirited subscribers to the Building-Fund, who in addition to the sum of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, expended upon the property over thirty-two thousand dollars which they raised by voluntary contribution. More than twenty-four thousand dollars were also appropriated by the Directors from the treasury of the League, in order to adapt the house to our occupation, and to furnish it with many conveniences that were not included in the contract between us and the subscribers to the Building-Fund. So that the total sum of money that has been expended upon this property now amounts to one hundred and seventy-six thousand three hundred and eighty-seven dollars and twenty-seven cents. Considering the sudden and enormous rise in the prices of labor and materials while the building was in progress, the amount paid for our noble property should not be considered excessive. Mention should here be made of the fidelity with which the contractor, Mr. John Crump, adhered to the strictest letter of his promises to the Building Committee. Although he was suffering loss

on every side, he carried out with unswerving fidelity the minutest details of the original plans, and if he has been obliged to bear loss as a builder, he has certainly added greatly to his reputation as a scrupulously honest man. In view of these facts, the Directors have instructed the House Committee to present to Mr. Crump, in the name of the League, a piece of silver plate, as a memorial of our appreciation of that gentleman's praiseworthy services to our Institution.

The reports of the Treasurer of the League and of the Auditors for the present year, are herewith submitted for examination. The income from all sources to December 1, 1865, which includes the balance that was on hand at the end of the previous year, amounts to one hundred and thirty-four thousand nine hundred and forty-three dollars and ninety-four cents. The disbursements, covering the same period, were ninety-one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight dollars and thirty-nine cents; leaving a surplus in the treasury of four thousand three hundred and sixty-five dollars and fifty-five cents, in cash, and of thirty-eight thousand six hundred dollars in United States Treasury notes. This surplus is subject to the payment of a temporary loan of thirty-five thousand dollars, incurred to enable the Treasurer to carry this investment in Government Securities into the coming year, and thus save us the necessity and inconvenience of re-investment in the same funds. The smallness of the present cash surplus, as

compared with the surpluses of previous years, is to be accounted for by the large extraordinary expenses which the League incurred in occupying and furnishing the new house. The outlay for furniture amounted to forty-one thousand four hundred and thirty dollars and seventy cents, and other expenses incident to removing added somewhat to the above sum. As much economy as could be practised in furnishing properly so large and elegant a building was employed by the House Committee. The Directors trust that no unnecessary luxury or display can anywhere be detected upon our premises, although all the articles purchased for the use of the League are the best and most substantial that the market could afford, nor in any instance have we gone beyond our own city to obtain the materials which our house contains. The income of another year will place the League on its former prosperous financial footing.

We have to regret the resignation and departure from the country of our late esteemed Treasurer, Mr. James L. Claghorn. Connected as he was with this institution from its organization, by the valuable services which he has rendered to it in widening its sphere of influence, suggesting for it new and important works of usefulness, by invigorating it with pecuniary aid, and by managing most skillfully its vast disbursements, he has entitled himself to our purest admiration and warmest friendship. We parted with him as we part with a brother; and as a brother we shall welcome him on his return.

During the past year our house has been a centre of attraction to strangers as well as to citizens. Various civic and religious bodies have visited the League House on the invitation of the Directors, and have expressed their satisfaction with the hospitality which we have extended to them. No member of the League will soon forget the animated scene which marked the reception of Lieutenant-General Grant within this hall, nor the strong emotions which were manifested by many individuals in the array that passed in peaceful review before him. This reception was considered a high privilege by our eminent guest, although he came among us on our own invitation; and since that day he has more than once expressed his pleasurable recollections of the occasion.

We trust that each member of the Union League still carries in his memory a vivid image of the solemn meeting of our Association on the seventeenth day of April last, and has not permitted the spirit which was then evoked to know change or decay. This is no time to multiply words in referring to the sad event which deprived the country of our wise, our merciful, our great-hearted President; but neither now, nor at any future time, nor amidst any distracting circumstances should we forget to keep alive the memory of a man whose loss was lamented by his very enemies, and whose fate sent a pang of horror into every corner of the earth to which tidings may travel. We must not forget the mournful,

nightly ward we kept as his august body passed through our silent ranks, to rest, as was proper, a little while in the temple of our national liberty. We must not forget the last brief look which each man cast upon that defaced dwelling of Abraham Lincoln's christian soul as we turned from his presence forever. In those days,—from the very depths and terrors and despairs of those dark scenes,—a cry went up, not for vengeance, but for justice. Has that cry been answered? The wretched tools of the murder, the almost unconscious instruments of the great nameless crime, have indeed perished by the merciful bullet and the gallows, or suffer by the discriminating verdict of their judges. But there is no loyal heart in the land that is not oppressed with a sense of something left undone, of something yet to be done before the national conscience can repose or the public eye can look without shrinking upon the grave of Abraham Lincoln. Weighed down by that feeling, haunted by that phantom of unexpiated justice, we await the future without distrust but not without solicitude.

The pleasant assemblage of the League on the Anniversary of our national liberty was an event to be remembered for the sympathy with its object evinced by our citizens in thronging to our public exercises. The distinguished orator of the occasion merits our thanks for his brilliant effort; and the reader of the Declaration

of Independence added fresh beauties to the revered document by his tasteful and moving elocution.

The history of the Union League during the last year has been one of unbroken prosperity. The burdens which our Association bore so cheerfully through the doubts and anxieties of the previous years, were lightened by the decline of the Rebellion, the wider spread of patriotic ideas among our people, and our increased confidence in the power and the wisdom of our Government. Social intercourse amongst our members has therefore been more genial and unrestricted as our duties became less numerous and urgent, and as the tread of our enemy's columns passed away from the borders of our State, and faded into silence behind the earthworks of Richmond and of Petersburg. Let us not therefore suppose that our public annals are closed, and that the Union League may degenerate into a mere social club, with no higher aims in view than the enjoyment of our hard-won ease. As has been before stated, many issues of the great Rebellion remain yet to be eradicated or healed; many political abuses among ourselves invite a sweeping reformation. Though our duties may be lightened, they are not ended. It would be a shame to our proud record, and a justification of the slanders of our opponents, to admit that the patriotic men of the League have, in these latter days, sunk into a congregation of insipid idlers and nerveless pleasure-seekers. Wherever there remains work to do, let us

do it with that will, activity and perseverance which have heretofore distinguished us, and won us the confidence and the praise of our fellow-citizens.

By order of the Board of Directors.

GEO. H. BOKER,

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

PHILADELPHIA, *December* 1, 1865.

To the Union League of Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned Auditors appointed by the Board of Directors of the League, beg leave to report, that they have examined the accounts of the Treasurers to this date, compared them with the vouchers, and found them to be correct. They present in the aggregate the following figures:

On hand Dec. 1, 1864, cash in bank,	$1,163 68	
$36,000 U. S. Treasury Notes, costing	36,000 00	
		$37,163 68
Entrance fee from 682 members, at $25,	$17,050 00	
Annual tax from 1 member, for 1863, at $25,	25 00	
Annual tax from 6 members, for 1864, at $25,	150 00	
Annual tax from 4 members, for 1863, at $12 50,	50 00	
Annual tax from 1,502 members, for 1865, at $25	37,550 00	
Annual tax from 272 members, for 1865, at $12 50,	3,400 00	
		58,225 00
Interest on U. S. Treasury Notes,		2,592 59
Box Rent, Cues and playing Billiards,		1,962 67
Temporary Loan on $38,600 Treasury Notes, as collateral,		35,000 00
		$134,943 94
Expenditures,		91,978 39
Balance,		$42,965 55
In $38,600 Treasury Notes, costing	$38,600 00	
Cash in bank,	4,365 55	
		42,965 55
Subject to the payment of a Temporary Loan of		35,000 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WARD B. HASELTINE,
AUGUSTUS HEATON,
ANDREW WHEELER,
Auditors.

UNION LEAGUE HOUSE,
December 11, 1865.

To the Board of Directors of the Union League of Philadelphia:

The Committee on Enlistments of the Union League, would respectfully report that, since their last report, they have been deprived by death of their Chairman, Jos. R. Fry, Esq., and by resignation of their Treasurer, Jas. L. Claghorn, Esq. Shortly after the last Annual Meeting of the League, the call of the President, Dec. 19, 1864, for 300,000 men, renewed the labors of the Committee. Uncertainty as to the quota of Philadelphia, for some time rendered impossible any systematic effort at recruiting; but, towards the end of January authority was obtained from the Department to raise a regiment of twelve months' men, and in a very short time the Committee had the satisfaction of placing in service the Two Hundred and Thirteenth Regiment, P. V.; or, Seventh Union League, under command of Col. John A. Gorgas. No time was lost in procuring authority for another organization, the Two Hundred and Fourteenth Regiment, P. V.; or, Eighth Union League, which was rapidly recruited, and placed under command of Col. D. B. McKibben. A third regiment was then authorized, the Two Hundred and Fifteenth Regiment, P. V.; or, Ninth Union League, the command of which was intrusted to Col. Francis Wister. By the time the last was completed, the surrender of the rebel armies caused the suspension of recruiting, and the active labors of the Committee were brought to a close. These three regiments were raised with a rapidity unexampled since the first enthusiasm of 1861, and at a cost much below the average of similar organizations, the recruiting expenses for the whole amounting to not over eight thousand dollars. As before, the funds were provided by private subscription, chiefly among members of the League. It is believed that no finer bodies of men than these have ever left our city for the front, though the sudden collapse of the rebellion deprived them of the opportunity of distinguishing themselves. A regiment, however, raised by the Committee under the call of July 18, 1864, the Hundred and Ninety-Eighth Regiment, P. V.; or, Sixth Union League, behaved with conspicuous gallantry in the final struggle before Peters-

burg. Posted upon the extreme left, it bore the brunt of some of the hardest fighting, and at the battle of Quaker Road, it did much to prevent serious disaster, losing its Colonel, now Brig. Gen. Siekel, seriously wounded, and its two Majors, Glenn and Maceuen, killed.

The experience of the Committee in recruiting having impressed them strongly with the evils of the present system of local bounties, they prepared in December last, a memorial to Congress on the subject, which elicited considerable debate. They have every reason to believe that it was largely instrumental in causing the removal in the amended enrolment act of some of the objectionable features of previous legislation.

It may, perhaps, not be inappropriate here to recapitulate briefly the work performed by the Committee since its organization in June, 1863, at the period of the invasion of Pennsylvania. Between June 25th and July 5th, of that year, it raised three full regiments of emergency men, under Col. Whipple, McLean, and Gray, besides five companies of cavalry. During the succeeding autumn and winter, the Fourth Union League, a three years' regiment, One Hundred and Eighty-Third, P. V., was raised and put into the field. In July, 1864, pursuant to the call for one hundred days' men, the Fifth Union League Regiment, under Col. Neff, was organized. Under the call of July 18, 1864, for one year men, the Sixth Union League Regiment, One Hundred and Ninety-Eighth, P.V., under Col. Sickles, was raised, consisting of three battalions or fourteen full companies. Under the call of December 18, 1864, as stated above, the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Union League regiments were promptly put into service. Under the auspices of your Committee, therefore, not less than ten thousand (10,000) men have thus been recruited during the last two years of the war; to accomplish which has involved an expenditure of over one hundred thousand dollars. The Committee cannot conclude this final account of their labors without acknowledging the cordial co-operation which they have at all times received from the Authorities, both State and National, and the inexhaustible liberality of their fellow-citizens, which kept them constantly supplied with the means necessary to the successful discharge of the duties intrusted to them.

JAMES H. ORNE,
Chairman Executive Committee.

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